

IV. GREENFIELD SUBDIVISION

The Greenfield Acres Subdivision is located on the Eastern fringe of the Snake River Plain and is situated on low-lying foothills at the base of the Taylor Mountain range. It averages an elevation of approximately 200 feet above the valley floor. The terrain to the East of the subdivision slopes upward gradually, then steeper up and away from the community. To the North and West, the terrain slopes downward back to the valley floor.

The subdivision consists of 86 homes with a population of approximately 330 people. The lots consist of one to two acres in size creating substantial unused and weedy areas within the subdivision. Around the entire Eastern perimeter, the terrain is covered with tall grasses and has been placed in the CRP set-aside program.

At a relatively short distance from the Eastern lots, possibly 100 to 300 feet, the terrain begins to be covered with a variety of brush, bushes, grasses and other fuels. The supply is abundant and would sustain an uncontrollable wild land fire if ignited. If the prevailing winds were to push a wildfire down the slopes of the mountain toward the housing area, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible to keep it from entering the subdivision.

The Greenfield Subdivision will be serviced by the Firth/Shelley Fire District.

A. MITIGATION ACTIONS

Several mitigating actions have already been taken to address the possible occurrence and severity of fires. The community has formed the Greenfield's Water and Sewer District and is organized with a board of directors.

One action taken was to secure ownership of the land necessary to make needed changes to their water supply and delivery system. With FMHA grant assistance, they have installed a 54,000 gal storage tank, replaced old water lines with 8" main lines, and installed fire hydrants. They have two operational wells, with a 75 hp pump in one, and a 150 hp pump in the other. Both pumps are powered with natural gas. In addition, they have a 25 hp pump in reserve that is electrically operated. The actions they have implemented have resulted in one of the highest insurance ratings in the county.

Proposed mitigation actions

1. Conduct a summer fire-wise education program. Under this program, representatives would meet with individual homeowners and present information and literature about creating defensible space.

2. A renewed effort will need to be conducted to install address numbers at each residential location. At present, very few numbers are visible making it very difficult for emergency vehicles to reach an intended address.
3. Sections of fire hoses with attachments installed could be placed strategically around the community. These could be quickly accessed and connected to hydrants to reach out to the perimeters of the community.
4. A fire lane could be created around the wild land interface side of the community by disking, mowing, or grazing. One problem to be dealt with would be that the owner of the subject property has placed the ground in the CRP set aside program.
5. The land adjacent to the community could be tilled up and fire-resistant grassed and plants could be sowed.
6. A 4-wheel drive brush truck housed at the well house would be a good first-response vehicle. This would give the residents a tool to fight fires until the Shelley/Firth fire departments could respond. The next best solution would be to provide a similar truck to the Shelley/Firth fire department. They have a great need for a vehicle of this type.